Poker website UltimateBet is dead

infotextmanuscripts.org/djetc/dj-ub-is-dead.html

This domain name has been seized by the F.B.I. pursuant to an Arrest Warrant in Rem obtained by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and issued by the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Conducting, financing, managing, supervising, directing, or owning all or part of an illegal gambling business is a federal crime. (18 U.S.C. § 1955)

For persons engaged in the business of betting or wagering, it is also a federal crime to knowingly accept, in connection with the participation of another person in unlawful Internet gambling, credit, electronic fund transfers, or checks. (31 U.S.C. § § 5363 & 5366)

Violations of these laws carry criminal penalties of up to five years' imprisonment and a fine of up to $250,000.

Properties, including domain names, used in violation of the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 1955 or involved in money laundering transactions are subject to forfeiture to the United States.
(18 U.S.C. § § 981 & 1955(d))

The domain seizure notice issued by the US authorities that greeted poker players when they logged on after the Black Friday cyber-raids.

The affair of the Black Friday domain seizures is said to be nearing closure, but while some poker sites have survived and even prospered, others have not been so lucky.

In April last year when poker players logged onto their favourite sites, many of them were greeted by the display left. The saga of Full Tilt has been documented here and elsewhere, and now it has been confirmed that it will be relaunched by PokerStars once the formalities have been sorted out. PokerStars is already the world's largest site, so that bodes well for poker players, apart from those in the home of poker that is, because American players are still excluded and will be for the foreseeable future as things stand.

Two other sites that were badly affected were Absolute Poker and UltimateBet. Both quit the United States for good, and Absolute has long since gone down the tubes; its domain is gone, and the only place it can now be found is on the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine, here.

Its sister site UltimateBet continued for a while as UBNet. Now, this domain is up for sale.

There is now a website dedicated to Poker Shutdowns that is keeping track of these sort of developments. Hopefully it will not have much to report on.

The screengrabs below are all from the same tournament, a RakeTheRake affiliate freeroll, which was played on UltimateBet early last year. They are in chronological order.

A screenshot from an affiliate freeroll on UltimateBet, early in 2011. This is a horrible type of bad beat; ordinarily you would expect to split the pot in this situation.

A screenshot from an affiliate freeroll on UltimateBet, early in 2011. One of the perils of slow playing aces is getting outdrawn by garbage hands, as happened here.

A screenshot from an affiliate freeroll on UltimateBet, early in 2011. A horrible suck out for the guy with pocket 9s; flop a set at hold ’em and you’d normally expect to win the hand.

A screenshot from an affiliate freeroll on UltimateBet, early in 2011. Another horrible scenario, after the turn the set is a big favourite, then wallop, the guy with pocket kings connects.

[The above article was published originally September 5, 2012 with 4 (new) screengrabs – or screenshots as they are called herein. The first appeared originally in the May 11 2011 article *Absolute and Ultimate – Poker sites quit US for good*.]